

Summary of Recommendations Columbus Charter Review Commission



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CHARTER REVIEW
COMMISSION

Overview

- Five members appointed by Mayor Coleman and Council President Ginther on April 4, 2014
 - The Honorable Michael F. Curtin, State Representative, Co-Chair
 - Marchelle E. Moore, Vice President of Legal & Government Affairs and General Counsel for the Central Ohio Transit Authority, Co-Chair
 - Jeff Cabot, Executive Director of Kids Voting Central Ohio, Commissioner
 - The Honorable Hugh J. Dorrian, Columbus City Auditor, Commissioner
 - Dawn Tyler Lee, Senior Vice President of Community Impact for United Way of Central Ohio, Commissioner

History of the Commission

- Held nine meetings
 - Seven working meetings
 - Two public hearings
- Sought public comment
 - Online form
 - Email form
 - Facebook posts
 - Informal
- Conducted a comprehensive review of the Charter
- Considered
 - 20 public comments
 - Received from 11 people
 - Weighed in on 5 items related to the charter



Annual Reports of the City of Columbus

- Section 231.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends amending the charter to establish that annual reports of the city are public records that must be retained permanently and electronically.

Charter Review Commissions

- Section ---.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends an addition to the charter to establish decennial Charter Review Commissions, commencing in 2022.

Charter Technical Changes

- Section ---.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends an addition to the charter to provide council with very limited authority to make technical changes to the charter.
- Action by 30-day ordinance
- Subject to the referendum

The City Clerk

- Sections 11, 14, 145.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends the reordering and amendment of three charter sections to provide consistency, clarity, and logical sequencing for the city clerk's powers and duties

Civil Service Commission Re-instatement to the Eligible List

- Section 149(k).
- The Charter Review Commission recommends amending from one year to three years the time-frame for current and former city employees to be reinstated to the eligibility list for a classification without the need for redundant testing.

The Council

- Sections 3-19, 33, 34.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends numerous amendments to reorder, in logical sequence, the charter provisions for the council; reflect modern organization of the council; and clarify select provisions of the charter relative to the council.

Council Wards

- Sections 3-19.
- The Charter Review Commission does not recommend abandoning the city's current form of legislative governance by adopting ward elections for members of city council.
- This Commission concurs with the 1998 Charter Review Committee, which said, "Council Members should come with a citywide perspective rather than with parochial interests which could lead to political 'horse-trading' for district advantage."

Elected Official Compensation

- Sections 7, 15, 59.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends a charter amendment creating a Citizens' Commission on Elected Official Compensation, with salaries established by ordinance of council based on the recommendations of such commission.

Elections

- Sections 41-56, 200-223, 234.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends modernization of the charter's elections provisions, including nominations, initiative, referendum, the recall, ballots, petitions, and charter amendments.

Equal Rights and Non-Discrimination

- Section ---.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends that the fundamental rights of equality and non-discrimination be protected in the charter through the adoption of an Equal Rights Amendment.

Ethics and Prohibited Acts for Public Officials

- Sections 6, 227.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends a streamlined, uniform approach to public official ethics and prohibited acts in the charter, while retaining the enhanced penalty for violation currently in the charter.

Inability of Officeholders, Temporary and Permanent

- Sections 5, 64, 67, 78, 87.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends establishing a clear process to declare an elected official temporarily or permanently unable to discharge the powers and duties of office.

Mayor's Budget Estimate

- Section 26.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends numerous updates to modernize the mayor's budget estimate, to better reflect contemporary budget development and dissemination practices.

Open Meetings

- Section ---.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends inclusion of an affirmative reference to state laws governing open meetings, while expanding the state law requirements to include purely advisory bodies of the city.

Prohibited Use of Public Funds

- Section ---.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends that the charter include a general prohibition on use of public funds in any manner contrary to the charter, ordinance of council, or general laws of the state; and that the charter require council to establish by ordinance prohibited uses of public funds.

Public Records

- Section ---.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends an affirmation, in the charter, of the city's responsibility to provide records of the city to the public pursuant to general laws of the state.

Qualifications for City Elected Officials

- Sections 4, 6, 58, 66, 79.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends creating uniform qualifications for city elected officials, while maintaining distinct, but appropriate, additional qualifications for the mayor and city attorney.

Recreation and Parks Commission

- Section 128.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends modernizing the qualifications for and composition of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Residency for City Employees

- Section 158-1.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends no action on Section 158-1 at this time, but endorses the proposal of the Civil Service Commission and the mayor's administration to begin an 18-24 month process of evaluating this section and developing a solution to this moot provision of the city charter.

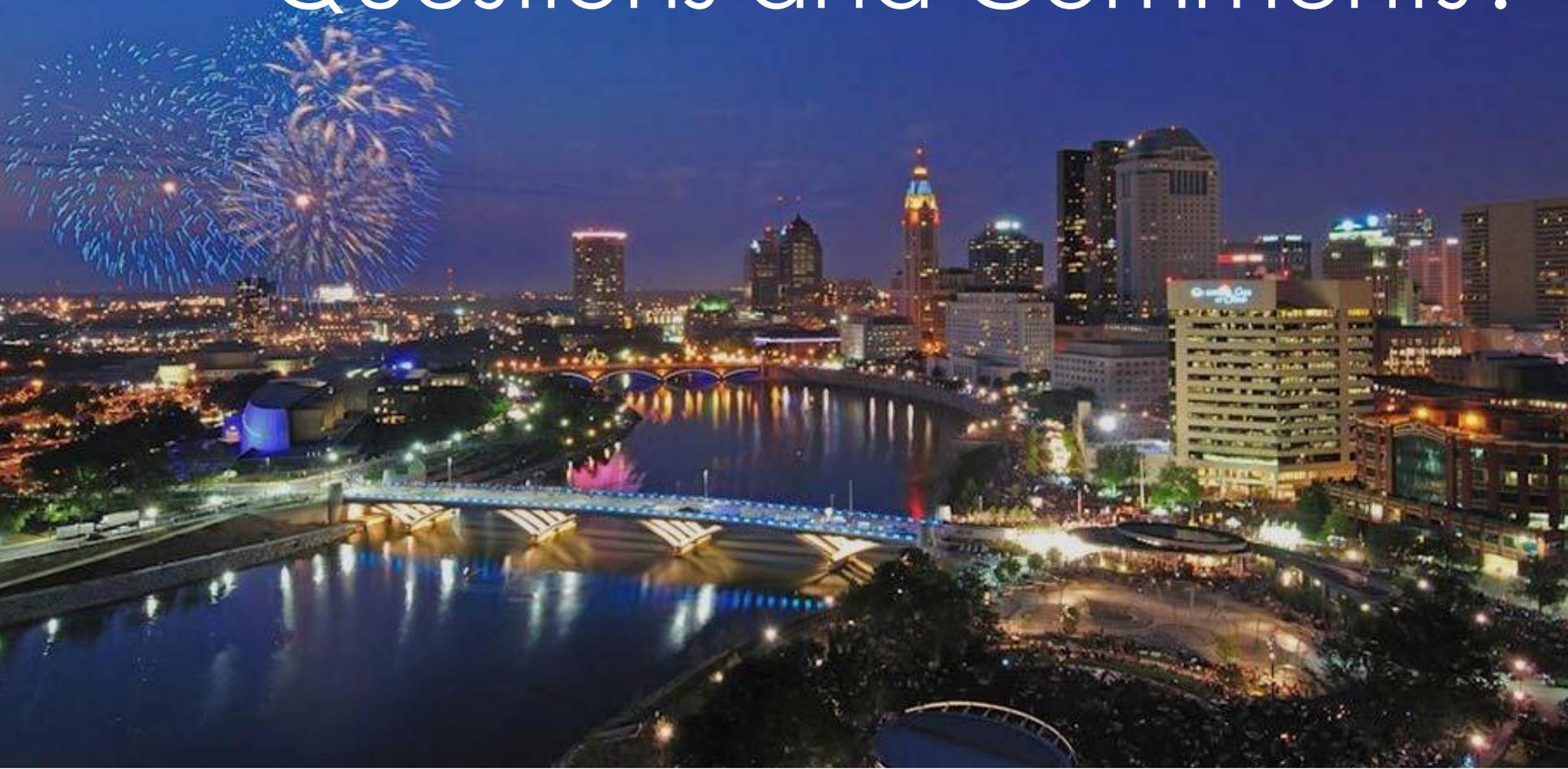
The Sinking Fund

- Sections 15, 26, 32, 61, 93, 120-121, 123, 133-141.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends repeal of the Sinking Fund and redistribution of responsibilities and duties of that archaic office among the auditor, mayor's administration, and city treasurer, while maintaining council's role in those processes.

Utilities

- Sections 118-124, 194.
- The Charter Review Commission recommends modernizing the charter's provisions regarding city utilities and franchises, to reflect the changing landscape of utilities over the last 100 years.

Questions and Comments?



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CHARTER REVIEW
COMMISSION